

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 16503 081622Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /006 W
-----116625 081624Z /41

O R 081251Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5990
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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STADIS//////////

GENEVA PASS SHEPARD LOWMAN

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: ESTIMATES OF BOAT REFUGEES IN THAILAND IN VARIOUS
CATEGORIES

REF STATE 143859

1. WE ESTIMATE THAT JUST OVER 1200 BOAT REFUGEES IN THAILAND
WHOM INS HAS NOT APPROVED FALL INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES.
THE FIGURES AND PERCENTAGES INCLUDE ACCOMPANYING RELATIVES.

CAT I 160 (13 PERCENT)

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 16503 081622Z

CAT II 7 (.5 PERCENT)

CAT III 290 (24 PERCENT)

NON-CATEGORY 760 (62.5 PERCENT)

2. OUR ESTIMATE OF THE 290 CAT III REFUGEES INCLUDES OVER 70

WHO ARE CLEARLY HIGHLY QUALIFIED CAT III, PLUS ALMOST 220 OF LESSER QUALIFICATIONS (MOSTLY LOW AND MID LEVEL RVN CIVIL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO HAD LIMITED ASSOCIATION WITH THE USG). DEPENDING ON WHETHER INS USES A STRICT OR LENIENT DEFINITION OF CAT III, THE NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE REFUGEES UNDER CAT III WOULD VARY CONSIDERABLY. IN THE PAST, INS HAS ACCEPTED CAT III BOAT REFUGEES WITH FAR FEWER QUALIFICATIONS THAN CAT III LAND REFUGEES, BUT THE PRINCIPAL REASON HAS BEEN THE GREATER AVAILABILITY OF BOAT NUMBERS.

3. WE ESTIMATE THAT INS WILL APPROVE 150 OR APPROX 95 PERCENT OF THE 160 CAT I REFUGEES, WITH THE OTHER 5 PERCENT OPTING FOR THIRD COUNTRIES. ASSUMING THAT WE CONTINUE TO ACCEPT ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE BOAT REFUGEES IN THAILAND, THE 150 CATEGORY I ACCEPTANCES WOULD REPRESENT ALMOST 18 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL US ACCEPTANCES. THAT PERCENTAGE IS LOWER THAN THE 30 PERCENT IN CAT I OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BOAT REFUGEES WHO HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN THE US (REFTEL). THE CAT I PERCENTAGE IS LOW BECAUSE INS HAS CONCENTRATED RECENTLY ON APPROVING CAT I REFUGEES, THUS REDUCING THEIR PROPORTION AMONG THE OVERALL CAMP POPULATION.

4. WE ESTIMATE THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY BREAKDOWN FOR TOTAL NUMBER OF FUTURE BOAT ARRIVALS:

CAT I 22 PERCENT

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 16503 081622Z

CAT II 1 PERCENT

CAT III 30 PERCENT

NON-CATEGORY 47 PERCENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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